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AGENDA

HISTORIC SITE BOARD

September 19, 2005

Final

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

ITEM 1 – ADMINISTRATIVE

A. Board Administrative Matters and General Information

- Excused Absences
- Other General Information

B. Conflict of Interest Declaration

C. Approval of August 15, 2005 Board Minutes

D. Reports

E. Announcements

- McRae/Albright Ranch Home Tours on October 8, 2005
- San Diego County Archaeological Society (SDCAS) meeting September 27, 2005 at 7:30pm, Dr. Lynn Gamble will present the program: "Cultural Landscapes of Northern Baja: Past and Present".

ITEM 2 – PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Comment

B. Presentations – None

C. County Department of Parks and Recreation – Dr. Lynne Newell Christenson

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM 3 – SICKLER BROTHERS' PALA MILL IN WILDERNESS GARDENS OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

Applicant: County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation

Location: Wilderness Gardens Open Space Preserve, Highway 76, Pala

Description: Acquired by the County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation (County Parks) in 1973, Wilderness Gardens represents the first open space preserve in the park system. The history of this park shows tremendous cultural and historic diversity and County Parks is committed to preservation of this unique history. Wilderness Gardens Open Space Park has three important historic periods – the Luiseño period, the Sickler Brothers Pala Mill period, and the Manchester Boddy Wilderness Garden period.

For more than 20,000 years the Luiseño Indians inhabited this area and gathered acorns from oaks growing along the San Luis Rey River. Evidence of this is reflected in the grinding rocks located along the river. The Luiseño were hunter-gatherers who moved from the mountains to the coast through a lush environment. They had a rich and diverse social and religious structure.

In 1880 the Sickler Brothers purchased this secluded section of the San Luis Rey River. The following year, they built the mill and by November 1881 the brothers were grinding corn and were ready to process wheat. The Sicklers were serious about providing a good product and operated the only mill in northern San Diego County for many years. The grinding stones were made in France and shipped to Oceanside, where they were hauled to Pala by wagon. To turn the stones and grind the flour, water from the river was diverted upstream into a flume and then dropped 20 feet onto the waterwheel installed next to the mill house.

The Sicklers devoted ten years to this business. It was highly profitable, but it appears that no one came forward to run the mill after the Sickler Brothers ceased operation in the 1890s. Since then, the property has changed hands several times. In 1930 the John Long family built a house, barn and outbuildings on the ranch. The barn was built from box lumber shipped from China. These buildings can be seen today. During this time changes were made to the gristmill, including the enclosure of doors, windows, and other openings in the rock foundation.

Today's Action: Recommend placement of Sickler Brothers Pala Mill on the Local Register of Historic Resources for one historic period - the Sickler Brothers Mill period.

Staff Recommendation: Recommend placement of this structure on the Local Register of Historic Resources.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM 4 – NATIVE AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING:

Description: A discussion of the County of San Diego's current, comprehensive monitoring requirements. The County is considering development of a potential listing of qualified Native American Monitors, as well as the requirements that would qualify these monitors. Currently, the County does require archaeological monitoring on many projects by qualified archaeologist, and if Native American observers are also required, it is the responsibility of the consultant to hire the observer/monitor.

OTHER

ITEM 5 – FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Next meeting will take place on Monday, October 17, 2005
- Edwards stone house and tower in Julian tentatively to be brought forward for historic designation (Applicant has hired Scott Moomjian to evaluate the project and prepare a report).
- Major Thomas R. and Mary N. Bartlett House in Mount Helix unincorporated area.
- The Lamb Ranch House in Fallbrook

ITEM 6 – ADJOURNMENT